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BULLETIN

of the Children's Book Center

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Volume VII July, 1954 Number 11

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R Recommended
M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it barely misses an NR rating. The book should be given careful consideration before purchase.
NR Not recommended.
Ad For collections that need additional material on the subject.
SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
SpR A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

New Titles for Children and Young People

R Baumann, Hans. The Caves of the Great Hunters; trans. by Isabel and Florence McHugh. Pantheon, 1954. 160p. $3.

In September, 1940, four young French boys were playing in the woods near their home in Lascaux when they accidentally came on a cave in the hillside. While exploring the cave they discovered that the walls were covered with paintings of animals, many of them so realistic looking that the boys thought for a moment that there were real animals in the cave. Their discovery proved to be one of great importance, for they had uncovered one of the finest examples of the art of pre-historic man yet to be found. The story of their discovery is told in a readable, semi-fictionalized style that gives the reader a vivid picture of the feelings of the boys when they made their discovery and at the same time is accurate and authentic. Interwoven into the account of this particular discovery are accounts (told by the Abbe Breuil to the four boys) of the discovery of other, similar caves in Southern France and Northern Spain. The book will be especially useful for units on pre-historic man and for art classes, and will be enjoyed by many readers simply as an intriguing story. (Gr.6-10)

R Bloch, Marie Halun. Tunnels; drawings by Nelson Sears. Coward-McCann, 1954. 95p. $2.75.

An interestingly written account of how tunnels are built and some of their present day uses. The author gives less detail about the history of tunnels and about the problems raised in the building of individual tunnels than is found in the White, Famous Tunnels of the World (Random House, 1953). However, she gives more of the actual details of how the various operations in building tunnels are carried on, how the different tunneling machines operate, etc. than does the White book. The book is illustrated with drawings and photographs, the photographs being much superior to the drawings. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Boynick, David K. Champions by Setback; Athletes Who Overcame Physical Handicaps. Crowell, 1954. 205p. $2.75. (Values: Overcoming Handicaps)

Brief, biographical sketches of ten men who overcame physical handicaps to gain fame in the field of sports. Included are: Glenn Cunningham, William Bonthron, Archie San Romani, James J. Braddock, Forbes Holten Norris, George Monroe Woolf, John Hackett, Hamilton Richardson, Charles A. Boswell, and Martin Whiteford Marion. The handicaps include a

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crippled arm or leg, diabetes, and blindness. The sports represented are: track, prize fighting, horse racing (jockey), swimming, tennis, golf, and professional baseball. (Gr.7-9)

NR Brady, Rita G. Jane Cameron, Schoolmarm; illus. by Genia. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 203p. $2.50.
Twenty-two-year-old Jane Cameron had lived at home all her life until she began teaching English in a small town high school. Facing three new situations at once—her first job, her first time away from home, and her first experience with small town living—was difficult, but she managed to make the adjustments without too much unhappiness. Shortly after the school year started she became involved with the Moore family, consisting of Jess Adams, the grandfather who had reared the three Moore boys after their parents died, Paul Moore who was Jane's age and had a job as traveling sales representative for a manufacturing company, and Phil and John Moore, both students in the high school. Jane agreed to act as a big sister to Phil and John, and soon had her hands full, for John had developed an adolescent crush on her and Phil was rapidly developing into a juvenile delinquent. In the end Phil was reformed, although not before he had almost cost Jane her job, and Paul had fallen in love with her. As a novel the writing suffers from typed characterizations and plot; as career fiction it gives a highly glamorized but not very realistic picture of what first year teaching is like. (Gr.8-10)

M Brown, Margaret Wise. The Friendly Book; pictures by Garth Williams. Simon and Schuster, 1954. 28p. (A Little Golden Book). 25¢ paper; 85¢ Goldencraft Cloth Binding.
A rhythmical listing of things that are likable—cars, trains, stars, snow, seeds, bugs, fish, dogs, boats, whistles, and people. The illustrations are cluttered; they are not in keeping with the mood of the text; and they do not always picture the things described in the text. (Pre-school)

R Bulla, Clyde Robert. Down the Mississippi; illus. by Peter Burchard. Crowell, 1954. $2.
Thirteen-year-old Erik Lind was fascinated by the Mississippi River which formed one boundary of his father's Minnesota farm, and he longed to become a river man like his cousin, Gundar. Finally there came a chance to make a trip with his cousin as assistant to the cook on a log raft that was being taken to St. Louis. The trip provided a full quota of hard work and excitement, but far from satisfying his desire to live on the river, which is what his parents had hoped would be the result, the trip merely strengthened his love for the river. He did, however, agree to wait until he was older before making the river his final choice of a place to live and work. The easy style and fast pace of the writing will give the book a wide range of appeal. The black-and-white illustrations are quite graphic and exceptionally pleasing. (Gr.2-7)

NR Clymer, Eleanor (Lowenton). Make Way for Water; illus. by J. C. Wonsetler. Messner, 1953. 63p. (Everyday Adventure Stories). $1.60.
A contrived story designed to show the interdependence of city and farm people. Young Peter Venner was quite upset when he learned that his father's farm was one that would be flooded when a new reservoir was built to supply additional water for the nearby city (not named but obviously New York). Then he met Mike Carter, who lived in the city and who had come to the valley with his father whose job it was to persuade the farmers to sell their land. Peter was invited to visit the Carters and in the city he learned the seriousness of the water problem and became reconciled to giving up his home. The book is too obviously teaching a lesson to have appeal as a story, and there is too much story for it to be useful as an informational book. (Gr.3-5)

M Corbin, William. High Road Home. Coward-McCann, 1954. 250p. $2.75.
The story of a fourteen-year-old French boy, Nico LaFlamme, who was brought to this country after World War II to be adopted by an American couple in California. Nico came into the country willingly but had no intention of going to California. Because of a scrap of newspaper which had been given to him by an American soldier, he believed that his father was still living and was in the United States. When Nico reached Cleveland he ran away from the woman who was taking him to California and began his long search for his father. In Columbus he was joined by eighteen-year-old Dud Hamilton, a would-be newspaper reporter, who became interested in Nico's story and saw there a chance to help the boy and also to get a scoop which could be his own opening wedge into newspaper work. Following slim leads, the boys traveled to Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, and got as far west as Ashfork, Arizona, before the authorities finally caught up with them. Nico was then sent on to California, and Dud continued the search alone. It ended in San Diego, but the man in the clipping was not Nico's father. By the time this discovery was made, however, Nico had come to have a great love for the American couple who were adopting him and he was glad to settle down in San Francisco with them. On the strength of his story of their cross-country trek, Dud was given a job (as copy boy) on one of the San Francisco papers. The story moves swiftly and holds the reader's interest up to the end. For the most part, the episodes are within the realm of possibility, and Nico's change, as he travels across country, from a suspicious dislike of all Americans simply because they are Americans, to a more mature realization that there are good and bad people in every country, is well-handled. The ending goes much too soft and sentimental to be wholly acceptable, and

there are episodes, such as the one in which the boys accidentally bring about the death (or serious injury) of a tramp, to which many adults will object. (Gr.9-12)

M Corcos, Lucille. Joel Spends His Money. Abelard-Schuman, 1954. 42p. $2. (Values: Acquisition and Use of Money).
Six-year-old Joel, hero of Joel Gets a Haircut, is this time faced with the problem of how to make the most of his allowance. At first he spends it all at once, and even tries to borrow from his next week's allowance. Then he sees a toy which he wants very much and, with great effort, manages to save enough to buy it. The purpose of the story is quite obvious, and although the book might be used with units on the handling of money, it is too dull and too long to have much appeal as a story. Cartoon-like illustrations. (Gr.1-3)

M Cross, John Keir. The Red Journey Back; illus. by Robin Jacques. Coward-McCann, 1954. 252p. $2.75.
In this sequel to The Angry Planet, the author again uses the device of having each section of the book supposedly written by one of the characters. At the beginning of the story Professor McGillivray and Stephen MacPharlane have returned to Mars. From Mars they establish radio contact with their friends in England and persuade all of those who participated in the earlier adventure, plus an assorted group of newcomers, to again join them on the red planet. The experiences of the group are just as weird and bizarre this time as they were in the first story. Readers who want their science fiction to have a basis of scientific fact will be disapproving of the author's vague generalities and of his occasional departure from known facts. For the indiscriminate reader only. (Gr.7-9)

NR Fargo, Gail B. Bible Stories and You. Philosophical Library, 1954. 90p. $3.50.
An interpretation of Bible stories in metaphysical terms. Much of the writing is too confused to have meaning for young children, and some of the teachings are questionable in terms of present day thinking. For example—the idea of using prayer simply to ask for things, or the idea that wealth is a sure sign that a person has been living a good life. (Gr.4-6)

R Gossett, Margaret. The Real Book of Jokes; illus. by Leon Winik. Garden City Books, 1954. 220p. $1.50.
A collection of jokes, riddles, limericks, anecdotes, puns, etc. There are little moron stories, little Audrey stories, shaggy dog stories, absent-minded professor stories, and many others. For youngsters wanting a new supply of jokes (and that includes practically every child) this will offer a rich and varied selection. (Gr.4-)

NR Hall, Arlene S. Bible Story ABC Book; illus. by H. O. Richards. Warner Press, 1954. 28p. $1.
Each letter of the alphabet is used to represent a person or event from the Bible. Old Testament and New Testament accounts are mixed together with no indication, except at the end of the book, of when the people lived or the events occurred. The brief texts cannot be called stories and are not even complete accounts of the events being described. (Pre-school)

NR Hinshaw, David. Alli and the Wishing Rock; illus. by Parker F. Edwards. Putnam, 1953. 95p. $2.50.
A fanciful tale about two South American spider monkeys who are carried away from their home by a python rock snake and set up housekeeping near a wishing rock. The style is excessively coy and much of the attempted humor is adult rather than child-like. (Gr.4-6)

Ad Hope, C. E. G. Horseback Riding; illus. by John Board. Crowell, 1954. 120p. $2.
A manual for young horse owners that is intended to be used to supplement what is learned in riding classes. Contents include a brief history of the horse and descriptions of the various breeds of British ponies; horsemanship and stable management; the points of the horse; first lessons in riding; simple riding aids; jumping, hacking, and hunting; and the limits and extent of a horse's intelligence and memory. The tone is British throughout and many of the expressions will be meaningless to young riders in this country. The writing is exceedingly uneven. (Gr.5-7)

M Horwich, Frances R. and Werrenrath, Reinald. Dressing Up; illus. by Katherine Evans. Rand McNally, 1953. 28p. 25¢.
Two children dress up in some old clothes and costumes which the mother of one of the children has stored away in a chest. Very slight. (Pre-school)

Ad Jennings, S. M. Boys' Book of Modern Science; illus. by I. N. Steinberg. World, 1951. 188p. $2.75.
A reference book for the young scientist. The material is arranged in alphabetical order, the coverage is wide and the range of difficulty level is great. Some of the longer articles are more clearly presented than are the shorter ones. This is not a book to be read straight through but is a reference source for brief information on some phases of modern science. (Gr.5-9)

NR Keller, Martha. The War Whoop of the Wily Iroquois; pictures by Richard Powers. Coward-McCann, 1954. 32p. $2.
A very slight re-telling of an episode which, according to a 1780 newspaper report, actually happened. The story concerns the Dexter family and their courageous defense of their home against the attack of a group of Iroquois Indians. The contrived, tongue-in-cheek tone of the writing

and the cartoon-like illustrations keep the book from having either value or appeal. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Lippincott, Joseph Wharton. Striped Coat, the Skunk; illus. by George F. Mason. Lippincott, 1954. 127p. (American Wildlife Series). $2.

The life story of a striped skunk, from the time of his birth until he reaches full maturity. The story moves quietly, but will have interest for youngsters who want stories of animals in their natural habitat. At the end there is an eloquent plea for the conservation of wild animals. (Gr.5-7)

NR Loring, Selden M. Young Buckskin Spy; illus. by Charles H. Geer. Lantern Press, 1954. 192p. (Young Heroes Library). $2.50.

A story of the Revolutionary War told in the first person by fifteen-year-old David Bell who, with his friend Tom Marley, serves as a spy for the American Army in the North. The book consists of a series of episodes in each one of which David and Tom succeed in outwitting the British. The writing is replete with the "had we but known" type of forecasting, and each adventure starts off with David or Tom making a foolish error and then recovering with a grand flourish. (Gr.5-7)

M Morgan, David P. True Adventures of Railroaders; illus. by W. A. Akin. Little, 1954. 209p. $2.75.

Nine stories of famous trains, railroad lines, or railroad people. Some of the stories: Casey Jones, Kate Shelley, the General, are available in other books. The last chapter is a prediction of what some of the trains of tomorrow may be like. The content of the book is interesting, but the style of writing is unnecessarily slangy and filled with cliches. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Munro, Donald John. Commodore John Paul Jones, U. S. Navy; A Biography of Our First Great Naval Hero. William-Frederick Press, 1954. 108p. $3.

An adequate, although not outstanding biography of John Paul Jones, written by a top-ranking officer in the British Navy. The author pays tribute to Jones' ability as a seaman and to his personality traits which made him such a favorite with women wherever he might be. The tone is matter-of-fact and no attempt is made to evaluate the justice of the causes in which Jones participated. The format of the book is dull and uninviting. (Gr.8-12)

R Musgrave, Florence. Catherine's Bells; illus. by Zhenya Gay. Ariel, 1954. 248p. $2.75. (Values: Unselfishness; Appreciation of others).

Catherine, who appeared as a minor character in Stars Over the Tent, is the heroine of this story of the Children's Home and a nearby farm. The rules of the Home state that no child will be kept beyond the age of twelve. When Catherine reaches that age she has no relatives to whom to go and so the Home places her with Miss Nan Haven, an Englishwoman living on a farm about a half-day ride from the Home. At first Catherine is somewhat shocked by many aspects of life on the farm—the casualness with which Miss Nan regards mending, making beds, washing dishes; the fact that Miss Nan wears men's pants while working around the farm (this at a time when such costumes were rare); and the fact that Miss Nan has converted one section of her house into an aviary where she raises canaries. The story of Catherine's adjustment to the new life, and her offer to sacrifice her new found happiness for the sake of five-year-old Peter, a crippled boy whom she had taken under her wing at the Home, is somewhat sentimental but makes a pleasant story. (Gr.6-8)

NR Olds, Helen (Diehl). Sara's Lucky Harvest; illus. by Paul Valentino. Messner, 1953. 63p. (Everyday Adventure Stories). $1.60.

A very slight story built around one episode in which a ten-year-old girl loses her pet deer and recovers it the same day. The background of the story—a potato farm in Maine—is more interesting than the story itself, but there is not enough about the farming and use of potatoes to give the book value as an informational book. (Gr.3-5)

NR O'Neill, Jean. Cotton Top. Lothrop, 1953. 40p. $2.50.

Cotton Top (whose real name is Sarah Jane) lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. She considers herself a very lucky little girl until one day when her cousin Serena, who lives in the city, comes visiting. Cotton Top begins to envy Serena her pretty hat and shoes and dress, but even more she envies Serena her beautiful doll, Rose. Cotton Top asks Serena for her clothes and doll, all of which Serena relinquishes without question. However, Cotton Top soon discovers that she is not happy with the new things and so the two trade back again the next day. The illustrations fail to give any real feeling for the mountains and the mountain people, in fact, Cotton Top looks more like a kewpie doll than a real little girl, and the values of the story are highly questionable. (K-Gr.2)

R Peare, Catherine Owens. John Woolman: Child of Light; The Story of John Woolman and the Friends. Vanguard, 1954. 254p. $3. (Values: Interreligious understanding).

An absorbing biography of John Woolman, outstanding Quaker minister of the eighteenth century. The story of Woolman's search for inner peace and of his unstinting work to persuade the Quakers, both here in his own country and in England, to take a firm stand against slavery is told with a depth and vigor that brings the man and his times vividly to life. The book will be read both as an interpretation of the Quaker re-

ligion and as supplementary reading for American History classes. (Gr.8-12)

R Peet, Creighton. The First Book of Bridges; pictures by Deane Cate. Watts, 1953. 69p. $1.75.
A brief survey of bridges and bridge construction from earliest to modern times. The various types of bridges are described, with illustrations to help clarify the descriptions; a section on cofferdams and caissons explains some of the basic principles of bridge building; and two double page spreads picture some of the famous bridges of ancient and modern times. The material is interestingly presented. Much of this same information is included in the section on bridges in the Schneider, Science Fun with Milk Cartons (Whittlesey House, 1953). (Gr.5-7)

R Podendorf, Illa. The True Book of Pebbles and Shells; pictures by Mary Gehr. Children's Press, 1954. 47p. $2.
A simple introduction to pebbles and shells for the primary grade reader. Most of the illustrations can be used for help in identification, although the pictures of the shells are much more satisfactory than are those of the pebbles. The text is written at an easy second grade reading level. (Gr.2-4)

NR Richard, James Robert. Phantom Mustang. Lothrop, 1954. 192p. $2.50.
A very mediocre story of ranch life, wild horses, and bank robbers. When sixteen-year-old Billy Alden's father found it necessary to go to California for the summer, he decided to take Mrs. Alden along to visit her sister, and to drop Billy off at the wild horse ranch of Paul Wilson, a man Mr. Alden had known in the army. Billy immediately made friends with Dick and Betty Wilson and the three set about making plans to help Cartwheel, a ranch hand, capture the Phantom, a wild mustang. Complicating their plans was the search that was going on near the ranch for three escaped bank robbers. Needless to say the children are instrumental in helping to capture both the stallion and the robbers. Billy is said to be sixteen, but he acts and talks more like a twelve-year-old. The writing is excessively slangy and filled with cliches. (Gr.6-8)

R Schloat, G. Warren. Your Wonderful Teeth. Scribner, 1954. 48p. $2.25.
A picture book presentation of the importance and care of teeth that could help youngsters to overcome some of their dread of a trip to the dentist. Illustrated with photographs of the author's own sons, the book shows not only the proper care of normal teeth, but also the steps that are taken in straightening teeth. No mention is made of the more uncomfortable aspects of dental work. A useful book for health and hygiene classes. (Gr.4-6)

NR Shurtleff, Bertrand Leslie. Flying Footballs; jacket drawings and illus. by William B. Ricketts. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 251p. $2.50.
Jim Kelvin, one time football referee and scout for pro-football teams, is forced to go to Arizona because of ill health. There he becomes interested in an all-Indian football team, accepts the job as its coach, leads it to victory against the best teams in the football league. The team's path to victory is made even more hazardous by the interference of some Chicago gangsters who threaten the life of the team's star player when he refuses to throw a game. The implication throughout the book is that all Indians are naturally lazy and that the team could not possibly have succeeded without a white boy to spark them to victory. Melodramatic plot with unreal dialog and characterizations. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Smither, Ethel L. Stories of Jesus; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Abingdon, 1954. 80p. $1.50.
Re-tellings of eight episodes from the life of Jesus, plus two of his parables—the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. The stories are simply told, with no attempt at interpretation. They lack the literary quality of the re-tellings in both the Bowie and the Barnhart books, but are adequate. (Gr.3-5)

Ad Snow, Edward Rowe. True Tales of Pirates and Their Gold; illus. with photographs and maps. Dodd, 1953. 274p. $3.
Accounts of the careers of some of the more famous—or infamous—pirates of the American coast, interspersed with the author's accounts of his own activities in seeking the treasure which some of these men supposedly buried along the coast. The subject is interesting enough to overcome the somewhat pedestrian style of writing, but less able readers will be deterred by the extremely fine print and full page. (Gr.7-12)

Ad Steinman, David Barnard. Famous Bridges of the World; illus. by Kurt Wiese. Random House, 1953. 99p. (A Gateway Book). $1.75.
Beginning with a description of the first natural and primitive bridges, the author traces the history of the building of bridges to modern times. There are detailed sections on the various kinds of bridge construction, the arch, the suspension, the truss, the cantilever, etc., and a section of photographs of some ancient and some modern bridges. Some of the material duplicates information that is found in Schneider, Science Fun with Milk Cartons (Whittlesey House, 1953) and in Peet, First Book of Bridges (Watts, 1954). The material is interestingly presented. The page references to the photographs are frequently incorrect. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Stoddard, Edward. The First Book of Magic; pictures by Robin King. Watts, 1953. 69p. $1.75.
Easy-to-follow directions for performing 31 magic tricks which require a minimum of prep-

aration and equipment. Also included are directions for giving a magic show plus some of the basic principles for fooling people with magic tricks. One of the tricks, which the author claims is infallible, actually will work only when the right combination of numbers is used, and will not, as he claims, work with any set of three figure numbers. (Gr.5-7)

M Tate, Elizabeth. Little Teddy and the Big Sea; pictures by Kurt Werth. Lothrop, 1954. 34p. $2.50.

A rather slight, but somewhat amusing, picture book about a bear family that went to the seashore for a holiday. It was the first time that Teddy had ever seen the ocean, and he had to learn the hard way to follow his father's instructions and not go into the water alone. Children will enjoy the story and pictures and adults can learn something about how to introduce their children to the ocean in a way that will keep them from fearing water. The use of personified animals in the story seems unnecessary; it does nothing to add to the appeal of the book, and may even be confusing for some children since the bears are totally lacking in all animal traits. (Pre-school)

R Taylor, Alice. South Africa; illus. by Rafaello Busoni. Holiday House, 1954. 27p. (Lands and Peoples). $1.75. (Values: International understanding).

A brief, interestingly presented introduction to South Africa. The emphasis is on the peoples who make up the population of South Africa and the background of some of the problems these various peoples have had in living together. No attempt is made to evaluate the present day situation, but the book does give the reader a basis for understanding the problems that are currently facing the people of South Africa. (Gr.6-8)

NR Tennis, M. H. Santa at the Zoo; illus. by John G. McIntyre. Pageant Press, 1953. 14p. $2.

Exceedingly forced, dull verse about the gifts which Santa gives the various animals in the zoo, with a side excursion to give presents to some of the nursery rhyme characters. (Pre-school)

NR Trease, Geoffrey. The Young Traveler in England and Wales; illus. with photographs and map sketches by Henry C. Pitz. Dutton, 1953. 223p. $3.

One of the better written titles in the Young Traveler Series, this book gives a view of modern England and Wales (although very little about Wales) as seen through the experiences of two young Americans, a boy from Wyoming and a girl from Boston. Where fictionalized travel books are wanted this one will be adequate. It will not satisfy the reader who wants a story, and the factual information it contains is too dispersed and fragmentary for the book to have much value as an informational book about these countries. (Gr.5-7)

Ad Truax, Rhoda. True Adventures of Doctors; illus. by Paul Galdone. Little, 1954. 216p. $2.75.

Fourteen accounts of famous medical discoveries, or of the work of men who have forwarded medical progress through their study and research. The book begins with Ambroise Paré, a barber-surgeon of the sixteenth century and comes up to modern times and the work that is currently being done in polio research. The style is pedestrian and most of the same information is available elsewhere. (Gr.7-9)

R Tunis, John Robert. Go, Team, Go! Morrow, 1954. 215p. $2.75.

An exceptionally good sports story that combines successfully a basketball season in Indiana, a boy's growth toward emotional maturity, and the near-disastrous effects of game hysteria on a small town. The year after the Ridgewood Redskins won the State Basketball Tournament nothing in town was too good for the boys on the team, and they, unfortunately, agreed with the townspeople. A rude awakening came when one of the star players was dismissed from school for gambling, and the entire varsity was suspended for breaking training. Under the misguided leadership of young Tom McWilliams, the team's captain, the varsity men threatened to quit the team because of the suspension. To their amazement the coach let them go and then proceeded to take the B team and build it into a winning varsity team. Little Tom (so called because he was named for his father, Big Tom McWilliams, the town's mayor) was so upset he joined a group of townspeople who were petitioning to have the coach dismissed, but thanks to the efforts of Tom's father, to the work of the student body, and to the news which arrived during the meeting that the B team had won an important game, the petition was not successful. In time Little Tom and the townspeople realized what a great coach they had. Little Tom came to his senses in time to help the team in practice sessions before the State Tournament even though he was not allowed to return to the team as a player. A refreshingly unhackneyed treatment of a situation that can result all too often when townspeople become too involved in a school's athletic program, and a good story of a boy's growing up. (Gr.7-9)

Ad Wagoner, Jean (Brown). The Shepherd Lad; A Story of David of Bethlehem; illus. by Paul Laune. Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 168p. $2.

A biography of David of Bethlehem from the time he was six until he was proclaimed King of the Israelites. The emphasis is on his life as a shepherd boy in the hills near Bethlehem, although full treatment is also given to the Goliath incident. The writing is uninspired and David never emerges as a very real person. The illustrations are quite unattractive. (Gr.4-6)

NR Warner, Ann Spence. Narcissa Whitman, Pioneer Girl; illus. by Bette Davis.

Bobbs-Merrill, 1953. 192p. (Childhood of Famous Americans Series). $1.75.
A fictionalized account of the life of Narcissa Whitman beginning when she was seven and with the emphasis on her early years. Her marriage to Marcus Whitman and the work they did among the Indians of Oregon are summed up in the last two chapters. The over-simplification of the text and the abrupt jump from the subject's childhood to her later years give the reader an erroneous picture of some important events in her life. (Gr.3-5)

R White, Edward E. and Muriel. Famous Subways and Tunnels of the World; illus. by Robin King. Random House, 1953. 97p. (A Gateway Book). $1.75.
An engrossing account of the history of tunnels and tunneling from very early to modern times. Also included are the reasons for building tunnels, the difficulties and dangers involved in digging through different kinds of earth formations, and some anecdotes connected with various important tunnels of the world. The graphic drawings and photographs add interest and appeal to the book. (Gr.7-12)

R Wibberley, Leonard. Deadmen's Cave; illus. by Tom Leamon. Ariel, 1954. 234p. $2.95.
A fast-paced, exciting adventure story of the time of Henry Morgan's sack of Panama. The story is told in the first person by nineteen-year-old Tom Lincoln who became involved with Morgan's pirates through no desire of his own and who was with them on the long march across the Isthmus and up to the time of the burning of the city. How he escaped and helped the young Spanish niece of the governor of Panama to escape and to clear her family's name of a false charge of robbery makes an absorbing adventure story. The ending is less skillfully handled than the main part of the story, but this is, nonetheless, a better than average adventure story. (Gr.7-9)

R Williams, Garth. The Golden Animal A B C. Simon and Schuster, 1954. 24p. $1.
A delightful animal ABC book with full-page, humorous pictures of fourteen different animals, and with four pages on each of which two different animals and letters are represented. The animals pictured include insects, birds, reptiles, and mammals. The unicorn is the only mythical animal that is pictured. Each leaf is heavy cardboard, which gives the book a strength that will withstand the hard usage of very young children. (2-5 yrs.)

M Wood, W. H. The House in the Sea; A Story of the First Lighthouse on Eddystone; illus. by Charles E. Pont. Little, 1954. 229p. $3.
A story of seventeenth century England and of the building of the first lighthouse on Eddystone. The story is told in the first person by Dick Wishart, a young boy who has recently moved to Plymouth with his father, sister, and aunt, and who becomes involved in efforts to thwart the attempts of the local wreckers to sabotage the construction of the lighthouse. Thrown in for good measure are a few assorted French spies who serve as red herrings but seem to have little other point to the story. All of the elements for a good historical-adventure story are here, but the writing lacks the vigor and color needed to bring them to life. (Gr.7-9)

R Wright, Ethel Belle. Saturday Walk; pictures by Richard Rose. Scott, 1954. 32p. $1.50.
A new edition of a book first published in 1941. A small boy tells of the things he and his father see when they go for their regular Saturday walk. When they go one direction from their home they see the bus stop, many different kinds of delivery trucks, and the fire house. In the other direction they pass the railroad station where they see freight and passenger trains and the airport. A pleasant story that can be used to encourage children to talk of the things they see in the neighborhood of their own homes. The illustrations have been completely re-done. (K-Gr.1)

R Yates, Elizabeth, comp. Your Prayers and Mine; decorations by Nora S. Unwin. Houghton, 1954. 64p. $2. (Values: Religious understanding).
A collection of 144 prayers, taken from many religions and from both the past and modern times. Most of the prayers are characterized by beauty of language as well as by depth and universality of ideas. This would make a nice gift book for personal use as well as a useful addition to church and general library collections. (Ages 12-)

R Zim, Herbert Spencer. Dinosaurs; illus. by James Gordon Irving. Morrow, 1954. 64p. $2.
An introduction to dinosaurs for young readers. In addition to a fairly detailed description of some of the more familiar dinosaurs, the author gives, very briefly, something of the whole history of the development of animals and some of the techniques used in hunting for and preserving fossils. The illustrations are quite useful in interpreting the text. (Gr.5-7)

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of the Children's Book Center

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